

C H A P.
XVII.
An oath to be
taken.

VII. **And be it enacted,** That every president, director and treasurer, before he acts as such, shall take an oath, or affirmation, for the due execution of his office.

Attendance
of subscribers
holding fifty
shares neces-
sary, &c.

VIII. **And be it enacted,** That after the said first meeting of the subscribers at Easton as aforesaid, the attendance of proprietors in person, or by proxy, having fifty shares at the least, shall be necessary to constitute a general meeting of the proprietors on the Wednesday after the second Tuesday of September in every year, at such convenient town as shall be from time to time appointed by the said general meeting, but if a sufficient number should not attend on that day, the proprietors who do attend may adjourn the said meeting from day to day till a general meeting of proprietors shall be had, which may be continued from day to day until the business of the company is finished, to which meeting the president and directors shall make report, and render distinct and just accounts of all their proceedings, and on finding them justly and fairly stated, the proprietors then present, or a majority of them, shall give a certificate thereof, a duplicate of which shall be entered on the said company's books; and at such yearly general meetings, after leaving in the hands of the treasurer such sum as the proprietors, or a majority of them, shall judge necessary for repairs and contingent charges, an equal dividend of all the net profits arising from the tolls hereby granted shall be ordered and made to and among all the proprietors of the said company, in proportion to their several shares, and upon any emergency in the interval between the said yearly meetings, the said president, or a majority of the said directors, may appoint a general meeting of the proprietors of the said company, at any convenient town, giving at least one month's previous notice in one of the Baltimore and Easton papers, which meeting may be adjourned and continued as aforesaid.

President, &c.
may agree
with the
owners, &c.

IX. **And,** whereas it is necessary for the making the said canal, locks and other works, that a provision should be made for condemning a quantity of land for the purpose, **Be it enacted,** That it shall and may be lawful for the said president and directors, or a majority of them, to agree with the owners of any land through which the said canal is intended to pass, for the purchase thereof, and in case of disagreement, or in case the owner thereof shall be a *feme-covert*, under age, *non compos*, or out of the state, on application to any two justices of the peace for the county in which such land shall lie, the said justices shall issue their warrant, under their hands, to the sheriff of their county, to summon a jury of twenty-four inhabitants of his county, of property and reputation, not related to the parties, nor in any manner interested, to meet on the land to be valued at a day to be expressed in the warrant, not less than ten nor more than twenty days thereafter; and the sheriff, upon receiving the said warrant, shall forthwith summon the said jury, and when met, shall administer an oath, or affirmation, to every jurymen that shall appear, that he will faithfully, justly and impartially, value the land, (not exceeding in any case the width of two hundred feet,) and all damages the owner thereof shall sustain by cutting the canal through such land, according to the best of his skill and judgment, and that in such valuation he will not spare any person for favour or affection, nor any person grieve for hatred, malice or ill will; and the inquisition thereupon taken shall be signed by the sheriff, and some twelve or more of the jury, and returned by the sheriff to the clerk of his county, to be by him recorded; and upon every such valuation the jury is hereby directed to describe and ascertain the bounds of the land by them valued, and their valuation shall be conclusive on all persons, and shall be paid by such president and directors to the owner of the land, or his legal representatives, and on payment thereof, the said company shall be seized in fee of such land, as if conveyed by the owner to them, and their successors, by legal conveyance; provided nevertheless, that if any further damage shall arise to any proprietor of land in consequence of opening such canal, or in erecting such works, than had been before considered and valued, it shall and may be lawful for such proprietor, as often as any such new damage shall happen, by application to, and warrant from, any two justices of the county where the lands lie, to have such further damage valued by a jury in like